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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE		FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/810,060	'03/25/2004		Pierre L. Laurent	FFRT-P001 7857			
<sup>32986</sup> IPSG, P.C.	7590	01/04/2008		EXAMINER			
P.O. BOX 700640 SAN JOSE, CA 95170				BAIRD, EDWARD J			
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Application No.   Applicantle)    Application No.   Applicantle)   LAURENT ET AL.				•		
Examiner	1		Applicati	on No.	Applicant(s)	
Ediard   Sep3		Office Assistant Commence	10/810,0	60	LAURENT ET AL.	
- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Extractions of the may be available under the provisions of 3 CFR 11:380, in the event however, may arely be timely field  If NO period for regly is specified above, the maximum statutory puriod will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  Failur to regive within the sic or exended period for regly is specified above. The maximum statutory puriod will apply and will expire SIX (5) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  Failur to regive within the sic or exended period for regly is placed to the specification become ABANDONE OF US 15. C § 1.33.  Any resy received by the Office lister from the mailing date of this communication, when if timely field, may reduce any sentence parties are subjected to second above the mailing date of this communication, and in the process of the mailing date of this communication.  1) □ Responsive to communication(s) filled on 25 March. 2004.  2a) □ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ This action is non-final.  3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) ☑ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are allowed.  5b □ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are rejected.  7c) □ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are rejected.  7d □ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are objected to by the Examiner.  10c □ The drawing(s) filed on is/are allowed.  6b □ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are objected to by the Examiner.  10c □ The drawing(s) filed on is/are allowed.  10c □ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are objected to by the Examiner.  10c □ The drawing(s) filed on is/are allowed.  10c □ Claim(s) 1-1g is/are objected to by the Examine		Oπice Action Summary	Examine	r	Art Unit	
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12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	11) 🔲 The	e oath or declaration is objected to by t	the Examiner. N	ote the attached Office	Action or form PTC	)-152.
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## **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1- 18 are pending in this application. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, and 103.

### Specification

1. Applicant cooperation is requested in correcting any error of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
  - The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 3. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
- 4. Claims 1 and 8 recite the limitations: "potentially suitable derivative contracts".

The term "potentially suitable derivative contracts" is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "potentially suitable" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

For the purposes of examination, the term "potentially suitable" will be interpreted to be not further limiting. Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claim 9 recites the limitations: "potentially future shipments".

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The term "potentially future shipments" is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "potentially" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

For the purposes of examination, the term "potentially future shipments" will be interpreted to be not further limiting. Appropriate correction is required.

6. Claim 15 recites the limitations: "upon performance time of said first derivative contract to book capacity for shipment using said first mode and said second mode respectively".

The term "upon performance time" is unclear. For the purposes of examination, the term "upon performance time" will be interpreted to be "based on performance time".

The term "to book capacity for shipment" is unclear. For the purposes of examination, the term "to book capacity for shipment" will be interpreted to be "in order to book shipment".

Appropriate correction is required.

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 8. Claims 1-4, 9, 14, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over **Nafeh et al** (USPub. No. 2002/0069155) in view of **Haigh** ("Hedging foreign

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currency, freight, and commodity futures portfolios--A note", The Journal of Futures Markets, Hoboken: Dec 2002. Vol. 22, Iss. 12; pg. 1205).

- 9. Regarding claim 1, Nafeh teaches:
  - receiving a derivative purchase request for capacity between said first location and said second location, said derivative purchase request having contract requirements that specify at least a shipment volume and a performance time;
  - ascertaining from a database of available derivative contracts a plurality of potentially suitable derivative contracts that satisfy said contract requirements; and
  - selecting a subset of said plurality of potentially suitable derivative contracts to
     satisfy said derivative purchase request, said subset including at least a first
     derivative contract for a first mode of said two transportation modes and a second
     derivative contract for a second mode of said two transportation modes;

Nafeh discloses an invention which includes methods and apparatus, to innovate trading of futures securities. This invention includes futures contracts tailored to specific clienteles; the notion of tickets and coupons as tradable futures contracts; the notion of redeemable bundles; and notion of realization of the futures market on the Internet; the apparatus of an Internet-based trading interface and engine; the notion of cookie-cutter futures electronic Internet-based futures markets for each security; the feature of maximal reliance on the Internet; and the business concept of "profitability without the need for high trading volume." [Abstract].

Nafeh discloses a computer-network based futures trading system, or platform, which is electronically accessible by prospective traders, for enabling transactions related to futures contracts and futures contract bundles [paragraph 0035]. Examiner notes that while Nafeh does not explicitly describe receiving a derivative purchase request, ascertaining available derivative contracts, and selecting derivative contracts to satisfy said derivative

purchase request, one is inherently present in the system in that a futures trading system must include these functions by definition.

Nafeh does not specially disclose trading futures options in relation to transportation.

However, Haigh discloses Baltic International Freight Futures Exchange (BIFFEX) which trades a derivative contracts and freight futures used for hedging uncertainty in international trade [Abstract and 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph under Introduction]. Haigh extends previous research by providing a complete framework for a trader exposed to foreign exchange, commodity, and freight price risk while allowing for time-varying dependencies among the prices [page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph].

Examiner notes that while **Haigh** does not explicitly describe derivative purchase request having contract requirements that specify shipment volume and a performance time, these are inherently parameters in freight futures.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include derivative contracts and freight futures as taught by **Haigh** because it allows individuals involved in the freight industry to efficiently monitor variable costs related to moving goods between several locations.

10. Regarding **claim 2**, the limitation: "said plurality of derivative contracts represent all derivative contracts in said database that satisfy said contract requirements" is a statement of intended use of the invention. As per MPEP 7.37.09: a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Since the statements of intended use do not further limit the claims, claim 2 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

- 11. Regarding **claim 3**, **Nafeh** teaches the limitation: "subset, of potentially suitable derivatives contracts, is selected using a fair and neutral trading rule". **Nafeh** discloses his invention to act as a government sanctioned institution to interact with government regulatory agencies so that all activities within the platform comply with government regulations and principles of fairness, integrity, and public transparency [paragraph 0033]. Examiner interprets principles of fairness, integrity, and public transparency as equivalent to Applicant's fair and neutral trading rule.
- 12. Regarding **claim 4**, **Nafeh** teaches the limitations:
  - receiving data pertaining to capacity releases from shippers, each of said capacity
    releases specifying a shipment volume and an origination point and a destination point,
    each of said capacity releases further specifying performance details including one of a
    departure time, a time en-route, and an arrival time;
  - bundling selected ones of said capacity releases into said available derivative contracts, wherein at least one of said available derivative contracts comprises a plurality of said capacity releases.

**Nafeh** discloses using a computer-network based futures trading system, or platform, to provide accessibility to prospective **traders**, for enabling transactions related to futures contracts and **futures contract bundles** [paragraph 0035].

- 13. Regarding claim 9, Nafeh teaches the limitations:
  - receiving shipment forecasts pertaining to potential future shipments and selfassessed qualitative ratings associated with said shipment forecasts;
  - aggregating said shipment forecasts and qualitative ratings into aggregated shipment forecasts and aggregated qualitative ratings; and

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furnishing said aggregated shipment forecasts and said aggregated qualitative
ratings to a trader to enable said trader to evaluate a volume of derivative contracts to
be purchased, said trader representing one of a market maker, a forwarder, and a
carrier.;

Nafeh discloses his invention to act as an umbrella aggregator, facilitator, administrator and electronic platform for supporting a nearly unlimited number of simultaneous trading markets in hedge instruments, and to act as a disseminator of information pertaining to the activities on these markets [paragraph 0029]. Examiner interprets acting as an aggregator to be equivalent to Applicant's furnishing said aggregated shipment forecasts. Examiner notes that the application of these functions to shipment forecasts are statements of intended use as discussed above in the rejection of claim 2, above.

14. Regarding claim 14, Nafeh teaches providing a derivative contract trading facility to enable market makers to electronically trade said first derivative contract and said second derivative contract prior to expiration.

Nafeh discloses a computer-network based futures trading system, or platform, which is electronically accessible by prospective traders, for enabling transactions related to futures contracts and futures contract bundles [paragraph 0035]. Examiner interprets computer-network based futures trading system as Applicant's derivative contract trading facility. Examiner notes that the enabling market makers to trade derivatives is a statement of intended use as discussed above.

Therefore, this claim is rejected for the same reason as claim 1, the claim upon this claim depends.

15. Regarding **claims 17 and 18**, **Nafeh** and **Haigh** teach all the items of claim 1, the claim upon which they depend. The limitations:

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- derivative purchase request represents futures purchase request (claim 17), and
- said derivative purchase request represents option purchase request (claim 18)
  are not further limiting because the terms derivatives include futures and options, i.e.
  futures and options are both derivatives. Since this statement does not further limit the claim,
  this claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, the claim upon which they depend.
- 16. Claim 5-7, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over **Nafeh et al** (USPub. No. 2002/0069155) in view of **Haigh** ("Hedging foreign currency, freight, and commodity futures portfolios--A note", The Journal of Futures Markets, Hoboken: Dec 2002. Vol. 22, Iss. 12; pg. 1205) in further view of **Hunt, et al** (US Patent No. 5,724,524).
- 17. Regarding **claim 5**, **Nafeh** does not specifically disclose the limitation:
  - bundling includes grouping capacity releases that involve geographically proximal origination and destination points.;

However, **Hunt** discloses a method and system for listing and brokering a commodity and its financial derivatives [column 3, lines 1-6]. He further discloses identifying a plurality of characteristics of a particular commodity and identifies these characteristics to include a geographic start point and a geographic end point; a start date and a finish date; a start time and a finish time; a volume; a mode of transportation; and, a cost [column 3, lines 6-25]. Examiner interprets characteristics of geographic start point and a geographic end point as equivalent to Applicant's bundling "data" according to geographically proximal origination and destination points. Examiner interprets characteristics of a particular commodity to include Applicant's capacity releases.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include characteristics of geographic start point and a

geographic end point as taught by **Hunt** because financial derivatives in the cargo

transportation industry would be sensitive to the distance and modes of transportation between

the start and end points of cargo movement.

18. Regarding **claim 6 and 7**, **Hunt** teaches the limitation:

bundling includes grouping capacity releases that fall within a time window;

Hunt discloses this (i.e. a start time and a finish time) as discussed in the rejection of claim 5, above [column 3, lines 17-25]. Examiner interprets characteristics of a start time and a finish time as equivalent to Applicant's bundling "data" that fall within a time window.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include characteristics of **a start time and a finish time** as taught by **Hunt** because financial derivatives in the cargo transportation industry would be sensitive to the time constraints regarding seasonal demands for commodities and shelf lives of some commodities.

19. Regarding claim 13, Nafeh and Haigh teach all the items of claim 1, the claim upon which it depends. Nafeh and Haigh do not teach the limitations of the first and second modes of transportation being different modes.

Hunt discloses a method and system for listing and brokering a commodity and its financial derivatives [Abstract]. He further discloses object of his present invention as providing the financial markets with ability to **trade carrier capacity** [column 2, lines 65-68]. Hunt further describes a series of broad categories of the derivatives. These categories include carrier space available during a particular time period in a particular region; all carrier space utilizing a particular **mode of transportation** within a given time frame; or, a combination of categories

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[column 3, lines 35-43]. Examiner interprets **combination of categories** as inclusive of Applicant's **first and second modes of transportation**.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include several modes of transportation as taught by **Hunt** because the invention would allow a user to forecast the cost of futures securities based on data that is pertinent to cargo that may travel via two modes of transportation due to availability of such modes between different locations. For example, cargo between two seaports could often be sent by ship based due to access to seaports. However, inland origins or destinations would require an additional mode of transportation such as truck or air transport between seaport and inland location.

- 20. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over **Nafeh et al** (USPub. No. 2002/0069155) in view of **Haigh** ("Hedging foreign currency, freight, and commodity futures portfolios--A note", The Journal of Futures Markets, Hoboken, Dec 2002. Vol. 22, Iss. 12; pg. 1205) in further view of **Vergottis** ("An Econometric model of the world shipping markets", The City University, London, United Kingdom, 1988, 448 pages; AAT DX88207).
- 21. Regarding claim 8, Nafeh and Haigh do not teaches the limitation:
  - providing an adjustment market facility for allowing a purchaser of said capacity between said first location and said second location pursuant to said subset of said plurality of potentially suitable derivative contracts to trade a specific component of said subset of said plurality of potentially suitable derivative contracts with other participants of the freight industry;

However, **Vergottis** teaches an aggregated econometric model of the world shipping markets [Abstract, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph]. He further notes that **adjustment** process plays an important roll by the forward looking speculative positions of investors in the second hand and new building markets as related to shipping [Abstract, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph]. Examiner interprets the **adjustment** process as Applicant's adjustment market facility.

Examiner notes that while neither **Haigh** nor **Vergottis** explicitly describes allowing a purchaser of capacity between locations to trade specific components of derivative contracts with other participants of the freight industry, these are inherently parameters in freight futures. Examiner further notes that trading "with other participants of the freight industry" are statements of intended use of Applicant's invention. As per MPEP 7.37.09: a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

Examiner interprets trading derivative contracts as Applicant's **trading specific** components of derivative contracts.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include an **adjustment** process as taught by **Vergottis** because it allows a dynamic response of the shipping markets to anticipated and unanticipated external shocks [Vergottis, Abstract, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph].

22. Claims 10-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over **Nafeh et al** (USPub. No. 20020069155) in view of **Haigh et al** ("Hedging foreign currency,

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freight, and commodity futures portfolios--A note", The Journal of Futures Markets, Hoboken:

Dec 2002. Vol. 22, Iss. 12; pg. 1205) in further view of **Scheer** (USPub. No. US 2002/0138358).

- 23. Regarding **claims 10 and 11**, **Nafeh** and **Haigh** teach all the items of claim 9, the claim upon which it depends. **Nafeh** and **Haigh** do not teach the limitations:
  - a self-assessed qualitative rating of said self-assessed qualitative ratings involves a
    shipper's self-assessment "of at least four" (claim 10 specific) of a set of criteria that
    includes demand, manufacturing readiness, manufacturing location, capacity, product,
    lane, and lane stability.

Scheer discloses a method for selecting a fulfillment plan for moving an item within a supply chain [Abstract]. He further discloses a supply chain management system and method which would allow companies to operate an entire supply chain on a "just in time" basis without requiring those companies to keep an excessive level of product safety stock on hand [paragraph 0023]. Examiner interprets allowing companies to operate an entire supply chain as representative of Applicant's self-assessed qualitative ratings. Examiner interprets operating a supply chain on a "just in time" basis as representative of Applicant's manufacturing readiness.

The supply chain management system includes a database of forecast data [paragraph 0024], which may be comprised of the following:

- Expected **consumption rates** based on historical data [paragraph 0025]
- Deterministic demand data [paragraph 0026]

Examiner interprets **consumption rates** as representing Applicant's capacity.

Scheer also considers excess inventory in regards to stocking levels for a particular location.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include **supply chain management system and method** as taught by **Scheer** because the invention would allow a user to forecast the cost of futures securities based on data that is pertinent to the supply and demand in the freight and transport industries.

- 24. Regarding **claim 12**, **Nafeh** and **Haigh** teach all the items of claim 9, the claim upon which it depends. **Nafeh** and **Haigh** do not teach the limitations:
  - computing quantitative ratings pertaining to said shipment forecasts, said quantitative ratings being based at least on historical data pertaining to past shipment forecasts and past actual shipment volume;
  - aggregating said quantitative ratings into aggregated quantitative ratings, and
  - furnishing said aggregated quantitative ratings to said trader.

Scheer discloses compiling the historical demand data according to characteristics that affect the demand for items in a logistics network. The items are categorized by: 1) moving category; 2) demand rate; 3) number per order; 4) world factors; and 5) lead -time [paragraph 0180]. He further discloses classifying a rate category of an item as having a "fixed" or "variable" demand rate based upon the rate based on demand over a given period of time [paragraph 0182], and number per order category of an item as being either "single" or "lumpy" based upon the number of units of the item typically ordered [paragraph 0183]. Examiner interprets categorizing of these items as representative of Applicant's quantitative ratings pertaining to said shipment forecasts. Examiner notes compiling the historical demand data as Applicant's aggregating and furnishing quantitative ratings. Examiner notes furnishing quantitative ratings to trader as a statement of intended use as discussed earlier.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include **compiling the historical demand data** as taught by **Scheer** because the invention would allow a user to forecast the cost of futures securities based on data that is pertinent to cargo based on demand rate, quantity in an order, international factors; and lead -time.

- 25. Regarding **claim 16**, **Nafeh** and **Haigh** teach all the items of claim 6, the claim upon which it depends. **Nafeh** and **Haigh** do not teach the limitations:
  - computing freight indices based on historical shipment volume between said first location and said second location; and
  - furnishing said aggregated shipment forecasts and said aggregated qualitative ratings to a trader, said trader representing one of a market maker, a forwarder, and a carrier;

Scheer discloses compiling the historical demand data according to characteristics that affect the demand for items in a logistics network [paragraph 0182 and 0183] as discussed in the rejection of claim 12. Examiner interprets historical demand data as Applicant's freight indices. Examiner notes furnishing forecasts and ratings to trader as a statement of intended use as discussed earlier.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the **Nafeh's** invention to include **compiling the historical demand data** as taught by **Scheer** because the invention would allow a user to forecast the cost of futures securities based on data that is pertinent to cargo based on demand rate, quantity in an order, international factors; and lead -time.

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26. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Nafeh et al (USPub. No. 20020069155) in view of Haigh et al ("Hedging foreign currency, freight, and commodity futures portfolios--A note", The Journal of Futures Markets, Hoboken: Dec 2002. Vol. 22, Iss. 12; pg. 1205) in further view of **Talluri** (US Patent No. 6,263,315).

27. Regarding claim 15, Nafeh and Haigh teach all the items of claim 1, the claim upon which it depends. Nafeh and Haigh do not teach the limitations of providing data pertaining to said first derivative contract and said second derivative contract to an electronic booking system upon performance time of said first derivative contract to book capacity for shipment using said first mode and said second mode, respectively.

**Talluri** discloses revenue management software system that supports decisions to accept or deny requests for resource capacity (seats, rooms, volume/weight, air time, etc.). The system uses control logic accessing multidimensional lookup tables of price values for each resource [Abstract]. Examiner interprets revenue management software system as Applicant's electronic booking system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having an ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Nafeh's invention to include revenue management software system as taught by Talluri because the invention would allow a user to implement cargo shipments based on time constraints in transporting different types of cargo.

#### Cited Prior Art

28. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

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- **Wilson**: "Air freight: Poised for expansion", Transportation & Distribution, Cleveland, Aug 1997. Vol. 38, Iss. 8; pg. 43, 5 pgs.). This article deals with forecast in worldwide air freight.
- Foster: "Air freight weathers the storm", Logistics Management and Distribution Report, Radnor, May 1999. Vol. 38, Iss. 5; pg. 55). This article discusses how shippers may want to trade off higher transportation costs for less risk.
  - Bains et al (US Patent No. 6,625,584).
  - Lancaster et al (USPub. No. 2002/0133456).
  - Lerner (USPub. No. 2002/0120555).
  - Schuricht et al (US Patent No. 5,040,132).

#### Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ed Baird whose telephone number is (571) 270-3330. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Kramer can be reached on (571) 272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ed Baird Assistant Patent Examiner 571-270-3330

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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